

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed and considered the Office Action mailed on August 1, 2003, and the references cited therewith.

Claims 4, 6-20, 22, 24, 26-41, 51, and 53-55 are amended, claims 1-3, 5, 21, 23, 25, 44-50, and 52 are cancelled, and claims 68-115 are added; as a result, claims 4, 6-20, 22, 24, 26-43, 51, and 53-115 are now pending in this application. No new matter is added.

Claims 7-20 are amended to be dependent on allowable claim 6 rather than claim 1 (claims 7-14 which were previously withdrawn now depend on claim 6 of the elected invention, and thus are part of the elected invention). New claims 68-81 are dependent on allowable claim 4, and are supported by original claims 7-20, respectively.

Claims 27-41 are amended to be dependent on allowable claim 26 rather than claim 21 (claims 27-34 which were previously withdrawn now depend on claim 26 of the elected invention, and thus are part of the elected invention and should no longer be withdrawn). New claims 82-98 are dependent on allowable claim 24, and are supported by original claims 27-43, respectively.

Claims 54-55 are amended to be dependent on allowable claim 53 rather than claim 48. New claims 99-100 are dependent on allowable claim 51, and are supported by original claims 54-55, respectively.

New claims 101-112 are supported by Figures 22G and 22H and the text at page 50 lines 20-23.

Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 48-53 were provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting over claims 1-33 of U.S. Application No. 09/815,844 (U.S. Pre-Grant Publication No. 2002/0047756). Applicant respectfully submits that this provisional rejection is moot and/or premature relative to the present application, since the present application is most likely going to issue first. Any such double patenting rejection would apply to the later-issuing application. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the provisional rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn, and that an early indication of allowance of the present claims be provided.

Claims 21-23, 26, 35, 36 and 41 were provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting over claims 1-31 of co-pending U.S. Application No. 09/816,603 (U.S. Pre-Grant Publication No. 2002/0000034). Applicant respectfully submits that this provisional rejection is moot and/or premature relative to the present application, since the present application is most likely going to issue first. Any such double patenting rejection would apply to the later-issuing application. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the provisional rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn, and that an early indication of allowance of the present claims be provided.

'103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1, 5, 17, 18, 20, 21, 25, 37, 38, 40-42, 48 and 52 were rejected under 35 USC ' 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ezawa et al. (US 4,481,265) in view of Kwak et al. (US 6,280,875). Kwak was filed 3/24/99--Applicant reserves the right to swear behind Kwak with regard to the use of elements from Kwak. Applicant has cancelled some of these claims and amended the rest to depend on claims previously indicated as allowable. Applicant reserves the right to reintroduce any of the cancelled or original claims in a continuing or divisional application and traverses the rejection as to those claims. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection as to amended claims 17, 18, 20, 37, 38, 40-42 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 15-19, 21-23, 35-37, 39-42, 44-46 and 48-50 rejected under 35 USC ' 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lew et al. (US 5,644,207) in view of Kwak et al. (US 6,280,875). Kwak was filed 3/24/99--Applicant again reserves the right to swear behind Kwak with regard to the use of elements from Kwak. Applicant has cancelled some of these claims and amended the rest to depend on claims previously indicated as allowable. Applicant reserves the right to reintroduce any of the cancelled or original claims in a continuing or divisional application and traverses the rejection as to those claims. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection as to claim 42 and amended claims 15-19, 22, 35-37, 39-41, 44-46 and 48-50 is respectfully requested.

Claims 43 and 47 were rejected under 35 USC ' 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lew et al. in view of Kwak et al. as applied to claims 1-3, 15-19, 21-23, 35-37, 39-42, 44-46, and 48-

50 above, and further in view of Kumar (US 5,695,873). Kwak was filed 3/24/99--Applicant again reserves the right to swear behind Kwak with regard to the use of elements from Kwak. Applicant has cancelled claim 47 and claim 43 depends on amended claim 41 which depends on claim 26 which was previously indicated as allowable. Applicant reserves the right to reintroduce any of the cancelled or original claims in a continuing or divisional application and traverses the rejection as to those claims. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection as to claim 43 is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 56-67 have been allowed.

Claims 4, 6 and 24 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. These claims are amended to be allowable as indicated.. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 26, 51 and 53 were indicated to be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 USC § 112 set forth in the Office Action.. These claims are amended to be allowable as indicated. These claims are amended to be allowable as indicated.. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney Charles A. Lemaire at 952-278-3500 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 502931.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 2nd day of January, 2004.

Charles A. Lemaire
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Signature